

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

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R 271052Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4080

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS MADRID 9034

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: CHANGES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED IN JANUARY

REF: MADRID 8667

1. MARATHON COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING DEC 26 DECIDED TO
CHANGE CONDITIONS FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS OF PRESIDENTS OF
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND MAYORS OF PROVINCIAL CAPITALS
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PLUS ONE-HALF OF ALL CITIES UNDER 100,000 -- EXCEPT FOR

MADRID, BARCELONA, VALENCIA, AND BILBAO -- SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY, 1976 (REFTEL). ELECTIONS FOR BOTH SETS OF OFFICIALS WILL BE POSTPONED BY ONE WEEK: PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENTS WILL NOW BE ELECTED JAN 18 AND MAYORS JAN 25. MORE IMPORTANTLY, GOVT DECIDED TO SUBMIT A DRAFT LAW TO THE "CORTES" ON AN URGENT BASIS MODIFYING THE TRANSITORY PROVISION OF THE LAW ON LOCAL GOVT ADOPTED NOV 19, 1975 (REFTEL) SO THAT THE MANDATES OF ALL THOSE OFFICIALS ELECTED IN JAN 1975 WOULD EXPIRE AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST PARTIAL (ONE-HALF) ELECTIONS FOR NEW PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND TOWN OR CITY COUNCILS.

2. UNDER THE NEW LAW ON LOCAL GOVT ADOPTED NOV 19 THE OFFICIALS TO BE ELECTED IN JAN 1976 WERE TO HAVE SIX-YEAR MANDATES. INASMUCH AS ONE-HALF OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND CITY COUNCILS WERE LAST ELECTED IN NOV 1973, THE NEXT PARTIAL ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD IN NOV 1976. THE OFFICIALS NAMED IN JAN 1976. THEREFORE, WILL PRESUMABLY HOLD OFFICE ONLY UNTIL NOV 1976. THIS MEANS THAT THE NEW GOVT HAS DECIDED TO SHORTEN THE MANDATE OF THOSE OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE ELECTED INDIRECTLY IN JAN 1976 BY PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND TOWN OR CITY COUNCILS ELECTED IN 1970 AND 1973, I.E. UNDER PRE-EXISTING LEGISLATION. THE NET EFFECT WILL BE TO ADVANCE THE DATE OF THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW LAW ON LOCAL GOVT RATHER THAN TO HAVE IT TAKE EFFECT IN STAGES.
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